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Senate Republicans punching the clock on JOBS II

LANSING — The Senate Finance Committee on Wednesday approved a bill designed to reduce the tax burden for small businesses that hire new employees, Committee Chair Nancy Cassis, R-Novi, announced.

Senate Bill 1093 offers companies with less than \$10 million in annual sales a tax credit for hiring new employees. The credit is equal to 1 percent of the compensation paid to the new employees.

“Our current tax system is a disincentive for businesses to hire new workers,” Cassis said. “This bill changes that, encouraging companies to expand their workforce.”

The legislation is part of the second phase of JOBS – “Job Opportunities for Business Success” – a broad Republican plan for revitalizing Michigan’s economy. JOBS II continues the effort of the initial JOBS plan by creating new job opportunities, saving existing jobs, and promoting a friendlier and healthier business climate in Michigan.

Legislation that prevents stringent business standards in Michigan from impeding economic development and job creation also saw action Wednesday. Senate Resolution 224, in opposition to any new or revised administrative rules more stringent than federal policies, is designed to prevent job losses. Companies looking to expand or relocate could lose interest in Michigan because of overly stringent standards.

Senate Republicans introduced more JOBS II legislation today. The bills:

- Create a personal property tax exemption for the first \$10,000 of a business’ personal property value;
- Eliminate taxation of federal and state research funds; and
- Keep business bankruptcy assets in Michigan by providing an incentive for companies to participate in the bankruptcy proceedings of other in-state companies.

(More)

A resolution also was introduced aimed at streamlining U.S.-Canadian border issues. It calls on the governor to create a Michigan-Ontario Border Commission to standardize border-related rules and regulations.

Other key elements of the JOBS II plan will be introduced in the coming days, including:

- Providing an equipment tax credit to promote development of high-speed Internet infrastructure;
- Eliminating red-tape nightmares by creating a “bureaucracy buster team” to recommend ways to remove burdensome regulations for businesses; and
- Expanding the use of private labs for state business.

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